

baseball player, talented basketball player, and honor student. He then attended the University of Connecticut where he participated in ROTC, graduating cum laude in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in resource economics.

After graduation, Keith joined the army. At the top of his class, he chose to attend the United States Army Aviation Warfighting Center where he became a helicopter pilot. He was deployed to Iraq in December as part of Task Force Lightning.

Keith Heidtman represents the promise of America. A talented and dedicated young man, he laid down his life to serve his country. While his smile may no longer brighten the lives of those around him, the memory of his life shall always endure. Young men and women are serving our Nation with honor and distinction every day. They are on the frontlines, defending those in need of help. There is no job nobler. Keith understood this great responsibility and volunteered for service to protect his country and its citizens, strangers and family members alike.

At his funeral, I was moved by the incredible outpouring of support demonstrated by his friends and community. Hundreds of people came to pay their respects and salute this American hero.

I recently had the chance to meet Keith's mother and stepfather, Maureen and Arthur, at their home in Norwich. After meeting them it was clear to me where Keith developed his penchant for service—his mother. As an employee for the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Maureen has dedicated her life to helping those in need. Keith carried on her legacy in the U.S. Army where he bravely served his country and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring 1st Lt. Keith Heidtman and his service to our great Nation. Keith and his sacrifice will forever be remembered by me, a mourning Connecticut, a grateful Nation, and family members who will never forget.

**HONORING DR. MANUEL LOPEZ'S  
80TH BIRTHDAY**

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Manuel (Manny) Lopez as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Dr. Lopez has served the Oxnard community as a doctor, an activist, a community volunteer and as an elected official. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Lopez on this special day.

Born in Oxnard in 1927, Dr. Lopez attended local schools through high school, attended Ventura Community College and went on to attend UC Berkeley for his undergraduate education and as a student of optometry. He returned to his community and has practiced Optometry in Oxnard since 1962.

Before serving on the Oxnard City Council for 12 years and then serving as mayor for 14 years, Dr. Lopez was involved with the Oxnard Planning Commission, the Housing Authority, the Redevelopment Agency, the Community Relations Commission and the Economic Development Commission. While serving as a Member of the Council and as mayor, Dr.

Lopez represented the city on a number of local and regional committees dealing with such issues as transportation planning, wastewater treatment, local airport policy and agricultural land preservation. He has also participated in many community groups such as the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Oxnard Optimist Club, the Oxnard Boys and Girls Club and many others.

As a result of his dedication to his community, Dr. Lopez was chosen as the 1991 Oxnard Distinguished Citizen of the Year and, in 1992, he received the Patrick Henry Award. In 2006 Dr. Lopez was the Grand Marshal of the Oxnard Christmas Parade. It is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize and commend Dr. Manuel Lopez for his ongoing service to his community on this joyous occasion of his 80th Birthday.

**IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL  
MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS  
WEEK**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week of awareness gave us the opportunity to highlight the issues and concerns that minority cancer patients and their families face on a daily basis. It is important that we acknowledge the challenges present for minorities who suffer with cancer so that we can take the necessary steps to alleviate these barriers.

Cancer patients endure chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgical operations and other forms of medical treatment to fight the numerous types of cancer. The medical community continues to conduct research to find cures for cancer and develop more effective ways to treat individuals struggling with the disease. Unfortunately these medical advances are out of reach for many minorities dealing with cancer. The American Cancer Society has documented that the advances in cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment has evaded minority groups:

Minority populations often face numerous obstacles receiving equal access to prevention, early detection, and quality treatment and tend to receive lower quality health care than white patients even when insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions are comparable.

Racial and ethnic minorities may lack health insurance, earn lower incomes, and experience language barriers, racial bias, and stereotyping which can affect interactions between patients and physicians and contribute to miscommunication or delivery of substandard care.

Eighteen percent of African Americans and 35 percent of Hispanic/Latinos are uninsured, while only 12 percent of whites lack health insurance.

I applaud the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network for bringing national awareness to the issues faced by minority cancer patients and for their efforts in celebrating National Minority Cancer Awareness Week.

**IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT  
BRANDON HADAWAY**

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, Sergeant Brandon Hadaway, 25, of Valley, Alabama, died on May 30, 2007, in Afghanistan. Sergeant Hadaway was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd General Support Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Sergeant Hadaway was serving on his third tour when his helicopter took fire from enemy combatants. He was a proud graduate of Valley High School and will be dearly missed in his community. As a testament to his sacrifice, the City of Valley has already declared a flag day in his honor.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Sgt. Hadaway, like other brave men and women who have served in uniform, died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty. Indeed, like those who have served before him, he was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve our nation. Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the House's remembrance at this mournful occasion.

**FREEDOM FOR ANTONIO RAMÓN  
DÍAZ SÁNCHEZ**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 11, 2007*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez, an electrician by profession, is a member of the Christian Liberation Movement and a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires to exercise his basic human rights and who supports freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law for the people of Cuba. Unfortunately, the nightmare that is the totalitarian regime continues to oppress the men and women of Cuba, especially those who work to shed light on the vicious crimes committed against the Cuban people by the tyrant.

In March 2003, as part of the tyrant's condemnable crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, Mr. Díaz Sánchez was arrested simply for expressing his opinions. Mr. Díaz Sánchez was subjected to a sham trial where he was "sentenced" to 20 years of confinement in the infernal totalitarian dungeons of the brutal regime.

Mr. Díaz Sánchez has continued to advocate for freedom and justice while locked in the hellish squalor of the dictatorship's gulag. He has participated in various hunger strikes to draw attention to the horrific conditions that political prisoners are subjected to in the gulag. He is routinely denied medical treatment although he currently suffers from painful colitis and has been denied a biopsy for a rapidly growing tumor on his prostrate.